



COUNTY BOROUGH OF OLDHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

1944



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Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Oldham.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Shannon and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ninth Annual Report on the Health of Oldham, and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1944.

The Report relates to the fifth year of war. It is gratifying to record that the health of the inhabitants of the Borough, as measured by the vital statistics, shows no deterioration. The notifiable infectious diseases were conspicuous by their low incidence apart from Measles which assumed epidemic proportions in the early Spring, though only one death occurred in over 1,200 cases. I regret to report three deaths from Diphtheria, again all in children who had not been immunised. The birth rate continued to rise and reached 18·03 per thousand of the population. The death rate of 15·39 compares with 16·27 for the previous year. The maternal mortality rate of 3·34 compares with 1·93 for England and Wales. There were 79 deaths registered from Tuberculosis (all forms), and the death rate was 0·70 per thousand of the population. This rate compares with 0·63 for the previous year, but is still below the average rate of 0·73 for the pre-war years. So much for recorded facts. Against these it must be borne in mind that the continued stress of war conditions, blackout, prolonged hours of work and anxiety, and the difficulties of travel have left their mark. General practitioners complain of crowded surgeries; patients of minor illness and symptoms of general debility. Can it be otherwise after five years of total war and destruction?

The staff of the Department have continued to play their part in the war effort. As a result of "V" weapon attacks on Southern England in July, nearly a thousand evacuees arrived in the town under the Government Evacuation Scheme. The staff were fully engaged in the examination of these evacuees on arrival, their care in the rest centres and also assisted with billeting. Just prior to the cessation of these attacks, arrangements were well in hand for the requisitioning of three large private houses for use as ante-natal and post-natal homes, and a reception ward was equipped at Boundary Park General Hospital for expectant mothers to be received from the danger zone. It was a privilege to have this more active share in the war effort.

On the night of December 23rd—24th, a number of "Flying bombs" were launched from 'planes over the North Sea, and one reached Oldham causing considerable destruction and loss of life in the Abbeyhills area. There were 56 persons injured and 27 deaths occurred. We have to mourn the loss of Miss C. Hardy, J.P., who had been a co-opted member of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee since July. It is gratifying to record that in spite of all Civil Defence Services being closed down, the Services worked most efficiently and were above criticism.

The casualties were treated at the Oldham Royal Infirmary and an emergency mortuary was set up in the Irk Street premises which had been completely dismantled only a few weeks before.

Notwithstanding the distractions of war, and the serious shortage of staff, the routine work of the Department continued and no services were curtailed. Boundary Park General Hospital received a record number of admissions and 2,561 mothers were admitted for confinement.

I would especially draw your attention to the formation of the Oldham Laboratory Board. A first class pathological service is now available for Oldham and the adjacent districts. Considerable attention was devoted during the year to the question of further implementing the Administrative Scheme in respect of the treatment of sick persons in the Westwood Park Institution. Such persons should receive assistance under the Public Health Acts and not under Poor Law. In May, the White Paper on the National Health Service (Cmd. 6502) was published and received your consideration.

I regret to record the death of Dr. W. R. Cammock which occurred suddenly in September. Dr. Cammock had rendered loyal and devoted service to the Hospitals under your control and to the Education Committee. In July, Dr. J. Starkie and Dr. H. S. Bagshaw were appointed Senior Medical Officers. In November, the Senior Dental Officer, Mr. Donald Gibson, left to take up an appointment in the Isle of Wight. Mr. Gibson had made many improvements in the Dental Service and proved himself an able administrator. He was succeeded by Mr. James Fenton.

I wish to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee for their continued support and encouragement. My thanks are also due to all members of the staff for their loyal co-operation and assistance during a very trying and difficult year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. CHALMERS KEDDIE,
Medical Officer of Health.

THE HEALTH COMMITTEE 1944.

Chairman:

Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor W. H. Taylor.

The Mayor:

Alderman R. Roberts, J.P.

Alderman J. Bannon, J.P.

Alderman A. Hallwood, J.P.

Alderman H. Shepherd, J.P.

Councillor F. Bardsley.

Councillor H. Clough.

Councillor R. Dawson,

Councillor W. T. Glover.

Councillor E. Henthorn.

Councillor Mrs. G. Shannon.

Councillor Dr. G. A. Taylor.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE

(A Sub-Committee of the Health Committee).

Chairman—Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P. *Vice Chairman*—Councillor
The Mayor. W. H. Taylor.

Alderman J. Bannon, J.P.

Councillor R. Dawson.

Alderman H. Shepherd, J.P.

Councillor E. Henthorn.

Councillor F. Bardsley.

Councillor Dr. G. A. Taylor.

with—

Mrs. F. J. Bainbridge, B.A.

Miss A. Rothwell.

Mrs. M. Jackson, J.P.

Mrs. G. Morrell.

Miss C. Hardy, J.P.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Alderman H. Shepherd, J.P., *Vice-Chairman*—Councillor
The Mayor. Dr. G. A. Taylor.

Councillor H. Clough.

Councillor W. T. Glover.

Councillor Mrs. G. Shannon.

Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P.

WESTHULME HOSPITAL AND TUBERCULOSIS SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Alderman J. Bannon, J.P. *Vice-Chairman*—Councillor
The Mayor. W. T. Glover.

Alderman A. Hallwood, J.P.

Councillor R. Dawson.

Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P.

Councillor E. Henthorn.

GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Councillor H. Clough. *Vice Chairman*—Alderman
The Mayor. A. Hallwood, J.P.,

Alderman J. Bannon, J.P.,

Councillor F. Bardsley.

Councillor R. Dawson

Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P.

Councillor W. H. Taylor.

In February, Alderman J. Bannon, J.P., resigned from the General Purposes Sub-Committee and Councillor R. Dawson was appointed as a Member of this Sub-Committee.

In July, Miss A. Rothwell, a co-opted Member of the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee resigned and was succeeded by Miss C. Hardy, J.P. (who, on the 24th December, 1944 was killed by enemy action.)

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1944.

Area in Statute Acres (1931 census)	4,735 acres
Enumerated Population (1931 census)	140,314
Registrar General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1944)	112,170
Density of Population, i.e., Number of persons per acre (whole Borough)	24
Number of Houses in the Borough, December, 1944 ...	40,656
Number of New Houses erected in 1944	<hr/>
Rateable Value (March, 1944)	£698,220
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (March, 1944) ...	£2,666
Amount of Poor Law (Outdoor) Relief paid in 1944 ...	£27,550
Weekly average number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief (539 cases)	857
Approximate total number of insured persons, 31st December, 1944	66,279
Number of Marriages during 1944	907
Persons married per thousand of population	7.93

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births. (Males 1041, Females 982)	2,023
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population ...	18.03
Stillbirths. (Males 35, Females 35)	70
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 Births	33.44
Deaths. (Males 893, Females 833)	1,726
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population ...	15.39
Maternal Deaths	7
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births ...	3.34
Deaths of Infants Under One Year	108
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	53.38
Other Death Rates per 1, 000 of estimated population:—	
All forms of Tuberculosis	0.70
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.62
Other Respiratory Diseases	2.67
Cancer	1.81
Principal Zymotic Diseases; Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup	0.06

BIRTHS. VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 3,268 live births (1,669 males and 1,599 females), registered in the Borough during the year. After correction for inward (65) and outward (1,310) transferable births, the net total of births is 2,023 (1,041 males and 982 females). The illegitimate live births numbered 116, or 5.73% of the total live births.

Stillbirths.

During the year 112 stillbirths were registered. After being adjusted by inward and outward transfers, the number is 70.

Deaths.

During the year 2,168 deaths (1,141 males, and 1,027 females) were registered in the Borough. After correction for inward (83) and outward (525) transferable deaths, the net total deaths is 1,726 (893 males and 833 females), a decrease of 101 on the total for 1943.

Of the 1,726 deaths, 787 (or 45.59%) occurred in one or other of the following Institutions:—

Boundary Park General Hospital	...	...	297
Westwood Park Institution	...	...	327
Oldham Royal Infirmary	...	...	104
Westhulme Hospital	...	...	8
Strinesdale Sanatorium	...	...	44
Other Institutions	...	...	7

Of the total deaths, 876 (or 50.75%) occurred in persons aged 65 years or over.

The following are the chief causes of death in order of frequency:—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	397
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	208
Cancer	...	...	...	...	204
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	195
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	79
Suicide and Other Violence	...	...	...	...	77
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	59
Arterial Disease	...	...	...	...	29

These groups of diseases represent 1,322 deaths occurring during the year or 76.59% of the total deaths registered.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 160 deaths (93 males and 67 females) of infants under one year of age registered in the Borough. After correction for inward (4) and outward (56) transferable deaths, the net total of infant deaths is 108 (65 males and 43 females), a decrease of 6 on the total for 1943. Of the 108 infant deaths, 14 were those of illegitimate children, and 51 occurred in infants under 4 weeks old, equivalent to a neo-natal mortality of 25.21 per thousand births.

The following table shows the neo-natal mortality, compared with the infantile mortality during the last ten years:—

Year	Infant Deaths under one month	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births	Infant Deaths under one year	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 births
1935	58	34.05	106	62.24
1936	67	39.76	118	70.03
1937	60	35.61	115	69.00
1938	66	39.26	103	61.27
1939	47	30.08	95	60.86
1940	48	31.05	105	67.91
1941	38	23.04	107	64.88
1942	55	32.22	110	64.44
1943	42	22.76	114	61.79
1944	51	25.21	108	53.38

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1944.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Year 1944	Mortality Rate Average Five Years 1939—1943	Death Rate from Phthisis	Death Rate from other Tubercular Diseases	Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)		
							Puerperal Sepsis	Other Causes	TOTAL
England & Wales ...	17.6	11.6	46	52	*	*	0.59	1.34	1.93
126 Great Towns ...	20.3	13.7	52	60	*	*	*	*	*
Birkenhead ...	23.3	13.3	59	76	0.77	0.24	1.04	3.47	4.51
Blackburn ...	16.7	14.1	45	61	0.46	0.08	0.00	1.12	1.12
Burnley ...	17.33	15.52	41.24	65.3	0.59	0.19	2.84	0.71	3.55
Bury ...	17.68	14.68	37	55	0.40	0.12	1.0	2.1	3.1
Halifax ...	18.6	14.5	38	55	0.48	0.12	0.52	1.74	2.26
Huddersfield ...	19.00	14.27	43	73	0.38	0.095	0.44	2.63	3.07
Liverpool ...	23.1	13.5	57	82	0.89	0.12	0.817	1.131	1.948
Manchester ...	19.85	14.20	53.59	68.23	0.80	0.11	0.64	1.19	1.83
Oldham ...	18.03	15.39	53.38	63.98	0.62	0.08	0.00	3.34	3.34
Preston ...	18.78	12.81	59	68	0.52	0.15	0.00	0.49	0.49
Rochdale ...	16.2	14.4	50	75	0.47	0.12	0.00	0.75	0.75
St. Helens ...	20.5	11.3	57.5	73.2	0.49	0.12	0.95	2.38	3.33
Salford ...	20.86	14.65	62	77	0.94	0.10	1.19	1.19	2.38
Stockport ...	18.62	13.86	68.25	67.57	0.46	0.09	0.41	3.62	4.03
Wallasey ...	21.5	11.8	43	57.4	1.21	0.15	1.63	1.08	2.71
Warrington ...	21.5	12.3	61	70	0.59	0.11	0.64	1.3	1.94
Wigan ...	18.74	12.92	67	73	0.52	0.13	1.36	0.68	2.04

*Not available.

Table of Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life during the Year 1944

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	2-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
ALL CAUSES	M	893	65	4	2	11	15	26	48	90	207	268	157
	F	833	43	5	2	9	22	26	39	80	156	239	212
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Scarlet Fever	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Whooping Cough	M	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Diphtheria... ..	M	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	51	...	...	...	...	5	10	5	15	10	6	...
	F	19	...	...	...	...	7	4	4	1	2	1	...
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis	M	5	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
	F	4	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
8 Syphilitic Diseases	M	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	...	...
	F	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...
9 Influenza	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	F	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2
10 Measles	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 Acute Infective Encephalitis	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 Cancer of Buccal cavity & Oesophagus	M	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	7	...
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum... ..	M	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	11	9	3
	F	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	2	2	1
15 Cancer of Uterus	F	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	3	...
16 Cancer of Breast	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	6	5	...
17 Cancer of all other sites	M	69	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	9	19	19	14
	F	53	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	9	13	16	6
18 Diabetes	M	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...
	F	15	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	5	4	1
19 Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	M	77	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	16	35	19
	F	118	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	27	48	34
20 Heart Diseases	M	209	...	...	...	...	3	4	10	17	54	74	47
	F	188	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	17	37	72	57
21 Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	M	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	3	5
	F	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4	10
22 Bronchitis	M	118	2	...	...	...	...	...	6	14	32	47	17
	F	90	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	18	36	28
23 Pneumonia	M	37	16	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	11	4	2
	F	37	15	2	1	1	...	2	3	3	1	4	5
24 Other Respiratory Diseases	M	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	3	...
	F	8	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	2	2
25 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	M	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	3	1	...
	F	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
26 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	M	8	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	6	5	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
27 Appendicitis'	M	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	F	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
28 Other Digestive Diseases	M	13	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	3	4	1
	F	20	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	3	3	8	2
29 Nephritis	M	18	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	2	9	2
	F	41	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	9	11	8	6
30 Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis... ..	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31 Other Maternal Causes	F	7	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	...	...	...	...
32 Premature Birth	M	17	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33 Congenital Malformation, birth injury, etc.	M	14	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F	10	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34 Suicide	M	11	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	5	3	...
	F	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
35 Road Traffic Accidents	M	5	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
	F	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	2	...
36 Other Violent Causes	M	28	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	5	2	...
	F	26	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	4	3	6	...
37 All Other Causes	M	123	3	...	...	...	3	3	5	11	17	40	41
	F	102	1	...	1	1	4	7	3	6	17	14	48

Deaths from stated causes and various ages under one year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 day.	1—2 days.	2—3 days.	3—4 days.	4—5 days.	5—6 days.	6—7 days.	Total under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under one month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Total under 1 year.
ALL CAUSES—Certified ...	14	8	4	3	4	4	5	42	4	1	4	51	27	15	5	10	108
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
T.B. of Nervous System ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
T.B. of Intestines and Peritoneum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other T.B. Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	4
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	4	...	3
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	4	1	...	...	5	9	...	...	6	28
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inflammation of Stomach ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	3	...	2	12
Hernia-Intestinal Obstruction ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	1	2	...	...	2
Congenital Malformations ...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Congenital Debility and Sclerema ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Icterus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	8	2	3	1	4	1	2	21	1	...	1	23	3	...	...	...	26
Diseases of umbilicus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Suffocation in Bed and not stated ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Congenital Heart Disease ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	4
Injury at Birth ...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Other Causes ...	1	3	...	...	...	1	...	5	...	1	1	7	1	...	...	1	9
TOTALS	14	8	4	3	4	4	5	42	4	1	4	51	27	15	5	10	108

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Pathological Services.

For the first three months of the year the pathological and bacteriological work of the Department was undertaken as in previous years by the Oldham Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester. From April 1st the work was undertaken by the laboratories of the Oldham Laboratory Board and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

The Oldham Laboratory Board was established early in 1944. The Board is composed of seventeen members consisting of eight representatives appointed by the Infirmary and eight representatives of the Council, together with a Chairman. The Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent of the Boundary Park General Hospital, the General Superintendent and Secretary and two members of the Medical Board of the Oldham Royal Infirmary, and the Medical Director attend the meetings of the Board in an advisory capacity but have no power to vote. The first Chairman of the Board was the Mayor (Alderman R. Roberts, J.P.), who has continued in this capacity. The Laboratory Board is responsible for the co-ordination of the whole of the pathological work of the County Borough of Oldham as set out in the agreement.

Mr. F. W. Barnett, General Superintendent and Secretary of the Oldham Royal Infirmary, was appointed as part time Honorary Secretary of the Board, which position he still holds.

The net cost of running the existing laboratories is borne proportionately by the Infirmary Board and the Corporation, and is fixed from time to time in accordance with the unit values for the work performed for the Oldham Royal Infirmary and the Health Committee.

The joint laboratory service came into operation on the 1st April, 1944, and the Ministry of Health consented for the purposes of Circular 2818 to the appointment of a whole time Pathologist, such appointment to be on a temporary basis, and in August, Dr. H. J. Voss, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., was appointed Medical Director.

The Chief Technician is Mr. H. Hobson who, prior to the forming of the Board, had been Chief Technician at the Oldham Royal Infirmary for many years.

The Council's representatives on the Board are the Chairman of the Health Committee (Councillor S. T. Marron, J.P.), Aldermen Bannon, J.P., Hallwood, J.P., Shepherd, J.P. and Councillors Clough, Dawson, Dr. G. A. Taylor and W. H. Taylor.

Supply of Insulin.

The arrangements for the supply of insulin in certain cases to persons suffering from diabetes, in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2734, and as set out in the Annual Report for 1943, were continued. During the year, 31 persons were supplied with insulin under this arrangement, including residents in other districts by arrangement with the district Councils concerned. The net cost to the Council was £62 15s. 11d.; patients' contributions amounted to £4 14s. 0d., and the amount received from out-districts was £13 9s. 3d.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS—CORPORATION EMPLOYEES.

During the year the Medical Staff of the Department undertook medical examinations for the various Corporation Departments as follows:

Department.	Entrants.	Disability Pensions	Total
Borough Ambulance Service ...	1	—	
Baths and Wash Houses ...	1	1	
Borough Engineer & Surveyor's ...	2	4	
Boundary Park General Hospital ...	54	—	
Carrying and Cleansing ...	22	3	
Education ...	32	4	
Electricity ...	10	3	
Gas and Water ...	20	14	
Health ...	37	—	
Maternity and Child Welfare ...	40	—	
Parks and Cemeteries ...	2	1	
Passenger Transport ...	72	24	
Police ...	2	—	
Public Assistance ...	21	1	
Public Libraries ...	3	—	
Street Lighting ...	1	—	
Town Clerk's ...	2	—	
Waterworks ...	2	3	
Totals ...	324	58	382

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS.

Transport:—

Road Traffic Acts ...	98
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Waterworks:—

Sickness ...	1
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Civil Defence:—

Training Centre	5
Civil Nursing Reserve	7
For other Authorities	1
Education:—							
Spouse Allowances	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total examinations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	495

BOUNDARY PARK GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The work at the Hospital again increased, the total number of admissions being 8,974 as compared with 8,919 in 1943. The number of confinements increased from 2,212 to 2,561, with a corresponding increase in new cases and attendances at the ante-natal clinic. Throughout the year it was found necessary to utilise two of the general wards in the Hospital for maternity patients. This increased demand for accommodation is due to the rising birth rate and also to the popularity of the hospital, although it should be stated that during this year a number of London evacuees who had been received in Oldham as a result of the flying bomb attacks in the south, were admitted to the Hospital for confinement.

In February, Mr. W. R. Cammock, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.) Aural Surgeon, died suddenly, and arrangements were made for these duties to be undertaken by Mr. H. P. Lawson, F.R.C.S. (Ed.), D.L.O., L.D.S.

Dr. D. G. O'Sullivan, Acting Deputy Medical Superintendent, tendered his resignation in September and Dr. R. R. Claiman was appointed to this position.

Early in the year the Establishment Committee agreed to the appointment of an Almoner, and in June, Miss Joyce France, B.A. (Admin.) commenced duties in this capacity.

(a) In-Patients.

1. Total number of admissions (including infants born in Hospital)	...	...	...	8,974
2. Number of women confined in Hospital	...	...	...	2,561
3. Number of live births	...	...	...	2,470
4. Number of stillbirths	...	...	...	91
5. Number of deaths among Newly-born (i.e., under four weeks of age)*	...	...	...	58
6. Total number of deaths of children under one year (including those given under 5)	...	...	...	113
7. Number of Maternal Deaths among women admitted to hospital for confinement	...	...	...	9
8. Total number of deaths	...	...	...	507
9. Total number of Discharges (including infants born in Hospital)	..	...	...	8,273

10.	Number of beds occupied (excluding cots in maternity wards)						
	(a) average during the year	...	...	...	...	378	
	(b) highest: 469 — 2-3-44.						
	(c) lowest: 282 — 2-9-44.						
11.	Number of Surgical Operations under general anaesthetic (excluding dental operations)	...	...	...	...	2,012	
12.	Number of abdominal sections	...	...	...	...	781	
	<i>* This figure only relates to children born in the hospital.</i>						

(b) Consultative Clinic

Patients seen	1,484
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(c) Ante-Natal Clinic.

Number of Sessions held	520
Attendances	17,692
New cases attending	1,827

WESTWOOD PARK INSTITUTION.

In July, Dr. Nellie Wilkes, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., returned to take up duties as Assistant Medical Officer in the Maternity and Child Welfare Department and arrangements were made for her to reside at the Westwood Park Institution and to undertake certain part-time duties as Resident Medical Officer. This arrangement of having a resident doctor in the Institution proved of the greatest value to the patients and relieved the pressure of work on the medical staff of the Boundary Park General Hospital.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

ADMINISTRATIVE SCHEME.

In October, 1943, the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor S. T. Marron requested the Town Clerk's interpretation of certain paragraphs of the Administrative Scheme made under the Local Government Act, 1929. The Town Clerk in reply expressed the view—

“Strictly, therefore, the treatment of sick persons at the Westwood Park Institution is, in my view, irregular as being contrary to the terms of the declaration and the Ministry of Health are entitled, I think, to insist that the practice shall cease.”

Following this ruling the Health Committee, in the same month, resolved that—

“Having regard to the Town Clerk's observations the Council be recommended to appoint a Special Joint Committee comprising members of the Health Committee and members of the Public Assistance Committee together with the three party leaders to consider the whole matter and make any necessary recommendations.”

This Special Joint Committee held several meetings and received reports from the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Assistance Officer. In one of these reports, the Medical Officer of Health stated that in order to make the most accurate division of the patients, the Acting Medical Superintendent had classified all the patients in the Institution into two groups:—

1. Cases requiring medical care.
2. Cases who are destitute and only require poor relief.

and that at the latter half of December, out of a total of 891 cases, 804 or 90·2% were a definite medical responsibility; and 87 or 9·8% were destitute and only required poor relief. Finally these Officers were asked to submit a joint report on the allocation of the Institution buildings for public health and public assistance purposes but found it impossible to arrive at any agreed separation of the accommodation. In March, 1944, the following conclusions of the Joint Section were confirmed by the Council and forwarded to the Ministry of Health:—

- (1) Agreeing that in accordance with the Administrative Scheme, hospital treatment for all sick persons should be provided under the Public Health Acts.
- (2) Expressing the opinion that any separation of the buildings presents insuperable difficulties which made it impossible to fully implement the provisions of the Administrative Scheme at the present time, but expressing the opinion that the Declaration should be fully implemented at the earliest possible opportunity.
- (3) Recommending that a Joint Sub-Committee be set up to give consideration to the matter.
- (4) Recommending the appointment of a full-time resident medical officer, a steward, and a matron.

The reply from the Ministry of Health set out certain objections to these proposals and stated that a preferable solution would be the appropriation of the whole of the Institution for public health purposes and the transference of the 87 able-bodied inmates to an old folks' hostel or an institution of some neighbouring public assistance authority. The communication further stated that it was the Ministry's policy to assist the appropriation of premises for use under the Public Health Acts and that it would not be necessary to disturb the mental cases or any but the 87 referred to as able-bodied. This communication was considered at a special meeting, consisting of the whole of the members of the Health and Public Assistance Committees along with the three party leaders and it was **RESOLVED**:—

- (1) That, having regard to the observations of the Ministry of Health, the Council be recommended to take such action as will enable them to implement the "Declaration" contained in the Administrative Scheme for the County Borough of Oldham made under the Local Government Act, 1929, by ordering that hospital treatment for all sick persons shall be provided under the Public Health Acts, as soon as possible.
- (2) That, with this object, the Council be recommended to make application for the consent of the Ministry of Health to the appropriation of the whole of the Westwood Park Institution for use as a hospital under the Public Health Acts.
- (3) That, all able-bodied inmates at present accommodated in the Westwood Park Institution be accommodated elsewhere.
- (4) That the question of providing alternative accommodation for able-bodied inmates be dealt with by the Public Assistance Committee.
- (5) That any necessary arrangements be made, accordingly, so far as the Lancashire County Council are concerned, under the "User" Agreement dated the 16th June, 1930.
- (6) That any previous resolutions to the contrary be and the same are hereby rescinded.

These recommendations were not approved at the April Council meeting, the following amendment being carried:—

- (1) That this Council agrees in principle with the recommendation contained in paragraph (1) of the Resolution of the Special Joint Committee.
- (2) That a Special Committee of six members of the Council (not being Members of the Health Committee or of the Public Assistance Committee) be appointed to consider and report to this Council on the matters referred to in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of the above Resolution, with a view to the Council implementing the "Declaration" contained in the Administrative Scheme as early as possible.

At the end of the year the recommendations of this Special Committee were awaiting submission to the Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Child Welfare Centre is adjacent to the Town Hall. There are six Branch Centres in widely separated parts of the town. Five First Aid Posts continued to be used as Welfare Centres until October when reductions in connection with Civil Defence necessitated the closing of three posts which were used as Welfare Centres. These premises continued to be used until the de-requisition notice was operative. In December, Hope First Aid Post which was also used as a Welfare Centre, sustained damage following enemy action and could no longer be used for this purpose.

In July, Dr. Nellie Wilkes, returned to take up duties as Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare with part-time duties at the Westwood Park Institution.

Attendances at the Central Welfare Clinic during 1944.

Number of individual cases who attended, and who at the end of the year were:—

Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	214
1—5 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	175
						— 389

Number of attendances (mother and baby count as one):—

Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,296
1—5 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	253
						— 2,549

Total number of new cases attending:—

Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	260
1—5 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	52
						— 312

Number of sessions held ... 98

Average attendance per session ... 26

Attendances at the Branch Centres during 1944.

Centre	Sessions	New Cases	Individual Cases Attending		Average Attendance	Total Attendances
			Under 1 year	1—5 years		
Brunswick	50	180	101	98	51	2,552
Collett Street ...	50	195	134	156	43	2,154
Hollins	50	211	150	197	69	3,436
Hope	49	143	111	173	48	2,380
St. Barnabas ...	49	181	133	182	68	3,337
Scottfield	50	141	195	148	35	1,748
TOTALS ...	298	1051	824	954	314	15,607

Births.

During the year 2,087 notifications of birth were received relating to 2,014 live births and 73 stillbirths. In addition, 1,324 notifications were received which were transferred to other authorities concerned.

The 2,087 live and stillbirths were notified by:—

Midwives ...	...	...	...	...	1,999
Doctors and Parents ...	...	...	...	...	88

Transferred Births.

The names and addresses of 1,410 infants and young children who left the Borough (including children born in Oldham hospitals, whose home addresses were outside the Borough), were notified to the Medical Officers of Health of the areas of their destination, and 81 were notified as coming to live in the Borough.

Health Visiting.

Details of visits made by Health Visitors:—

Visits to newly-born infants	1,827
Re-visits—Infants under 12 months	2,933
Infants 1—5 years	4,399
Visits to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7
Measles	1,249
Whooping Cough	183
Infantile Deaths	81
Ante-Natal Cases	85
Miscellaneous Visits	406

Infant Life Protection.

The supervision of infants under the age of nine years, received for maintenance and reward, is carried out by Health Visitors. These children are visited frequently and are also medically examined at the Infant Welfare Centres. The following are the figures for 1944.

Number of Foster Parents on the Register—

(a) at the beginning of the year	11
(b) at the end of the year	6

Number of Children on the Register—

(a) at the beginning of the year	11
(b) at the end of the year	6
(c) who died during the year	—

New cases during the year 5

Removed from the Register during the year:—

Returned to Parents	7
Over 9 years	1
Adopted by Foster Parents	1
Removed from the District	1
Transferred to Homes or Hostels	—

The Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.

Consideration was given to the unsatisfactory position which exists with regard to medical reports on children to be adopted. Under the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939, an Adoption Society is under an obligation to obtain a report on the health of the child, signed by a fully qualified medical practitioner, but there is no statutory obligation on other persons or parties to obtain such a report in cases where adoption is arranged other than through an Adoption Society.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee were of the opinion that in all cases of adoption such a medical report should be obtained and the Minister of Health was requested to institute the necessary legislation. The advisability of obtaining such a report was also brought to the attention of the Clerk to the Magistrates and the Public Assistance Officer. A reply was received from the Minister of Health intimating that the point had been noted for consideration should any revision of the law be contemplated, and in the meantime the Minister noted with interest the action taken locally.

The Council of Social Welfare, which is registered as the Oldham Adoption Society, submitted its first Annual Report. During the period, 17 applications for children were received and 4 adoptions were arranged. 2 applicants obtained children from other sources and 3 applications were withdrawn. There is the closest co-operation between the Adoption Society and this Department.

Care of Illegitimate Children.

Problems arising in connection with illegitimate children and the facilities which are available for the care of these children and their mothers was the subject of a special investigation during this year. It appeared that the majority of children were well cared for either by relatives or in a wartime nursery, and the provision of a hostel was not considered necessary. The local arrangements were considered adequate to meet the majority of cases and were reported to the Ministry of Health in response to Circular 2866. The Minister expressed appreciation of the arrangements made. The closest co-ordination exists between the Council's officers and the trained worker of the Oldham Council for Moral Welfare.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

The demand for nursery accommodation was steadily maintained in all the nine wartime nurseries. In January the Horsedge Nursery was recognised by the National Society of Children's Nurseries as a Training School for students.

The Mental Health Emergency Committee offered the loan of a worker trained in occupational and play activity for children under 5, and this offer was accepted. In addition, by arrangement with the Education Department, Miss J. Bradshaw was appointed to superintend the education activities of the children aged 2—5 years.

At the end of the year there were 9 wartime nurseries operating in the Borough accommodating 417 children. In addition, the Education Committee provided 4 wartime Nursery Classes with extended hours.

HOME HELPS.

The establishment of a Home Help Service was approved in principle but it was not found possible to operate the scheme owing to the difficulty in obtaining suitable applicants.

Municipal Midwifery Service.

At the beginning of the year 8 midwives were employed by the Council. There were 5 new appointments, 3 resignations were received and at the end of the year the number employed was 10.

The following is a summary of the work done by the Municipal Midwives during the year:—

Confinements.

Number of cases booked	394
Number of confinements attended	400

Visits.

Ante-Natal	3,948
During lying-in period	6,827
Post Natal	145

Fees.

Patients paying full fee	380
Patients paying reduced fee	18
Necessitous cases (no fee)	2

Amount of fees received, £691.

During the year 2,087 live and stillbirths were notified; of these 1,492 (or 71·49%) were institutional and 595 (or 28·50%) domiciliary. Of the latter, 397 (or 66·73%) were attended by Municipal Midwives and the remaining 198 (33·27%) by Midwives in private practice.

Supervision of Midwives.

During the year, 63 Midwives notified their intention to practise, compared with 62 in 1943. Of these, 13 were Municipal Midwives; 5 Midwives in private practice, 40 Midwives in Boundary Park General Hospital and 5 Midwives in the Woodfield Nursing Home.

The following notifications were received from Midwives practising in the Borough:—

Stillbirths	20
Deaths	5
Artificial Feeding	74
Liability to be a source of infection	41

There were 294 Medical Aid Forms sent in by Midwives as compared with 273 in 1943. The conditions for which medical aid was sought were as follows:—

Conditions in Mother.

Ante-partum Haemorrhage .	10
Abortion or Threatened	
Abortion	3
Other Ante-natal Conditions	41
Delayed Labour	23
Other Malpresentations ..	8
Ruptured Perineum	78
Placenta Praevia	1
Post-Partum Haemorrhage ...	5
Pyrexia	20
Other Conditions	25

Total ... 214

Conditions in Child.

Feebleness or Premature ...	7
Discharging Eyes	48
Other Conditions	25

Total ... 80

The total cost of these claims was £224 10s. 6d. of which £119 10s. 9d. was recovered from the patients.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 16 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified.

The following are the results of these cases:

Vision unimpaired	14
Still under treatment	1
Died	—
Removed from District	1

Puerperal Pyrexia.

The following cases of Pyrexia were notified during the year:—

Boundary Park General Hospital	1
Private Practitioners	8

Emergency Maternity Unit.

This service continued to operate in accordance with the arrangements as out-lined in the 1941 report and the Unit was called out on six occasions during the year.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

The Scheme as outlined in the Report for 1941 was continued throughout the year:—

Summary of Treatment Given during 1944.

Patients treated	41
Attendances of patients	285
Extractions	394
Fillings	21
General anæsthetics given	31
Other operations	192
Dentures provided	43

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During the year there were 12 deaths attributed to or associated with childbirth. Of these, 7 were true maternal deaths, giving a maternal mortality rate of 3·34 per thousand total live and stillbirths. Excluding the one abortion death the rate is 2·87. The cause of death in each case was as follows:—

“A”—Deaths due to Sepsis: 0.

“B”—Deaths due to other Puerperal Causes: 7.

Case No. 1. Age 38.

1. (a) Ectopic Intra-Peritoneal Pregnancy.
- (b) Ruptured Uterine Scar.
- (c) Old Caesarean Section.

Case No. 2. Age 36.

1. (a) Myocardial Failure.
- (b) Caesarean Section.
- (c) Contracted Pelvis.

Case No. 3. Age 35.

1. (a) Caesarean Section.
- (b) Pre-eclamptic Toxaemia and Obstructed Labour.

Case No. 4. Age 42.

1. (a) Myocardial Degeneration.
- (b) Puerperal Debility.

Case No. 5. Age 44.

Heart Failure due to hæmorrhage due to incomplete abortion.

Case No. 6. Age 30.

1. (a) Post-Partum Haemorrhage.
- (b) Pregnancy—living child born.
2. Hyperpiesis.

Case No. 7. Age 20.

Acute Eclampsia, Pregnancy. (undelivered 39 weeks).

“C”—Deaths Associated with Pregnancy: 5.

Case No. 8. Age 33.

1. (a) Uraemia.
- (b) Chronic Nephritis.

Case No. 9. Age 45.

1. (a) Cancer of Breast.

Case No. 10. Age 38.

1. (a) Uraemia.
- (b) Chronic Nephritis.
2. Pregnancy (22 weeks) Abortion.

Case No. 11. Age 25.

1. (a) Liver Necrosis.
- (b) Hepatitis.
2. Pregnancy.

Case No. 12. Age 25.

1. (a) Empyema.
- (b) Lobar Pneumonia.
2. Premature Labour.

THE ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.

The Orthopædic Clinic provides treatment for cases from the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, the School Medical Department, the Tuberculosis Dispensary and from Private Practitioners. During the year 16,843 attendances were made by patients.

The following table shows the defects from which the cases examined by the Orthopædic Surgeon were suffering, and the source of reference of these cases.

Defects	Source of Reference				Total Number of Cases Referred
	Maternity and Child Welfare	School Medical Dept.	Tuberculosis Dispensary	Private Doctors	
Postural Defects	1	10	...	...	11
Little's Disease ... ..	...	12	...	...	12
Spastic Paralysis	7	...	...	...	7
Infantile Paralysis ... ..	...	17	...	3	20
Torticollis	5	3	...	...	8
Congenital Deformity	9	13	...	10	32
Congenital Talipes	15	2	...	...	17
Injuries (including Fractures) ...	...	8	...	17	25
Knock Knee	4	...	...	...	4
Pes Planus	37	35	...	...	72
Pes Planus with Knock-Knee ...	25	14	...	...	39
Pes Cavus ... ..	...	13	...	...	13
Hallux Valgus ... ..	...	4	...	6	10
Rickets	30	4	...	...	34
Osteomyelitis ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Rheumatoid Arthritis ... ..	...	2	...	22	24
Rheumatic Nodules ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Neuritis ... ..	...	...	...	3	3
Scoliosis	1	...	...	2	3
Amputations ... ..	...	2	...	4	6
Tuberculosis Bones and Joints ...	...	...	58	...	58
Other conditions	3	11	...	2	16
Totals ...	137	151	58	70	416

WATER SUPPLY.

The Engineer and General Manager of the Waterworks Department, Mr. C. Busfield, has kindly supplied the following information:—

During the past year a constant supply of water of a high standard of purity has been maintained to all premises within the Corporation's area of supply, reserves of water have been well maintained and no restrictions of any kind relating to the use of water have been imposed.

The supply to all dwelling houses is taken directly to the houses and no supplies are provided by standpipes.

All water supplied is sterilised by means of ammonia and chlorine.

The pH values of the supplies from the Piethorne and Hanging Lees sources, all of which are unfiltered, varied between 5·5 to 7·0. Filtered water is supplied from the Castleshaw and Readycon Dean sources, the pH value of which has varied between 7·5 to 9·0. No cases of contamination by lead of the water supplied have been notified.

During the year six samples from Piethorne, five from Hanging Lees and four each from Readycon Dean and Castleshaw were submitted for chemical analysis after sterilisation, whilst two samples from Piethorne and one sample from Readycon Dean were submitted for chemical analysis before sterilisation. Also, during this period, twelve samples from each of the Piethorne, Hanging Lees and Castleshaw sources, and eleven samples from the Readycon Dean source were submitted for bacteriological examination after sterilisation. In all cases B.Coli was reported to be absent from 100 c.c.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to Mr. J. Taylor, the Sewage Works Manager, for the following information:—

Treatment of Sewage: The method of treatment is the same as the previous few years namely:—

- (1) Detritus Tanks.
- (2) Sedimentation Tanks.
- (3) Bio-Flocculation Tanks.
- (4) Percolating Filters & Humus Tanks.
- (5) Storm Tanks.
- (6) Heated Sludge Digestion.

Routine work during the year had to be carried on with a much depleted staff but in spite of this, the amount of work done was very satisfactory.

The plant although suffering in parts from lack of maintenance and renewals continued to give fair results under the circumstances.

In the mechanical dredger used for emptying the grit tanks, a new worm conveyor was fitted. This is the first new one installed since the dredger was first used in 1931.

The Bioflocculation plant was in operation for eleven months and during this time the effluents obtained were very fair. Airtiles in each unit were scrubbed and cleaned twice, the tiles were cleaned by burning, using sludge gas as the source of heat.

Years of continued use have made it necessary to consider the renewal of the distributors on the low level percolating filters, and during the year it was decided to replace fourteen rotary distributors.

Chlorination of the filter feed was again used with marked effect from early April until the end of September. In order not to use an excessive amount, the chlorine was applied at night during the periods of low sewage flow.

For part of the year the whole of the raw sludge produced was treated in two heated Primary Digestion Tanks, the third unit being out of use due to a fault on the hot-water system used for heating the tanks. On inspection it was found that three of the internal hot-water coils had for part of their length lifted off the wall brackets, thus causing the pipe joints to pull. The repairs were completed before the end of the year and the tank put into use again.

Sludge gas production was fairly steady at an average of 75,000 cubic feet per day and most of this was used on the Works for heating purposes.

Instead of the old Ram Pump a new Centrifugal Pump was installed for dealing with the bulk of the raw sludge produced.

The demand for sludge cake from the drying beds has again been well maintained and approximately 5,000 tons were removed from the Sewage Works site.

Sludge Disposal.

The total amount of sludge deposited in the Settling Tanks was 39,000 tons, equal to 11.5 tons per million gallons of sewage flow.

Sewage Flow.

The total amount of sewage received for treatment during the year was 2,526,000,000 gallons, which is equal to an average daily flow of 6,921,000 gallons.

Average Analytical Results expressed in parts per 100,000.

4 hours Oxygen Absorption	Sewage	Tank Effluent	Final Effluent
at 26.7° C.	8.26.	7.04.	1.59.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The Director of Public Cleansing (Mr. A. Millward) has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

House and Trade Refuse Collection.

Number of Ashbins emptied	...	...	...	...	2,083,114
„ Sanitary Pails emptied	...	...	...	...	51,247
„ Collections of Butchers' offal	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Fish offal	...	...	...	...	18,096
„ Loads of excreta collected	...	...	...	...	570
„ „ Butchers' offal collected	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Fish offal collected	...	...	...	...	630
„ Tons of Ashes to Refuse Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	6,925
„ „ Corporation Tips	...	...	...	...	15,950
„ „ Clinker removed from Refuse Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	4,214
„ „ Baled tins sold	...	...	...	...	480
„ „ Mortar sold	...	...	...	...	240

Waste Water Closets and Latrines.

Blockages cleared (W.W.C.'s)	3,637
Blockages cleared (Latrines)	—
Drains cleared	280
Drains found blocked, requiring excavating	246
Tippers found not working and re-adjusted	122
Tippers, fittings, etc., found broken	1,274
New Tippers, fittings, etc., fixed	1,240
Visits paid flushing latrines	10,063

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1944. Mr. W. L. Leach, District Inspector, resigned in July to take up a similar position with the Borough of Barnes and Mr. G. Walmsley was appointed to the staff in August.

During the year the staff of the Department gave assistance in the billeting of London evacuees and a considerable amount of time was devoted to duties in this connection.

The elimination of unsatisfactory common lodging houses in the Borough proceeded.

Every effort was made to maintain the supervision of food and milk, and in connection with meat a one hundred per cent inspection was carried out. The further regulations made by the Ministry of Food with regard to food standards were appreciated.

I wish to tender to yourself and members of the staff my sincere thanks for the willing help and co-operation I have received during the year.

Yours respectfully,

HAROLD V. CASS,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspectors.

During the year, 7,320 visits and 1,877 revisits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with inspections under the various Acts.

Summary of Action taken and Work carried out:—

Number of complaints received	984
Referred to other Departments	1,277
Letters to Owners, etc.	739
Cases reported to Committee	1,566
Cases taken in Court	9

Disrepair.

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	221
Walls and Chimneys repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	124
Wall plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	119
Ceiling plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	55
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	42
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	49
Extra Lighting provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation provided or improved	...	...	...	...	...	52
Ranges or Fireplaces repaired, re-set or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	54
Staircases repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Handrails provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	35
Food Stores provided or altered	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washing accommodation provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rooms, cleansed or redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	29
Contents of rooms cleansed or destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dampness remedied Rising	...	...	...	...	...	7
Penetrating	...	...	...	...	...	8
Outbuildings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	0
Courts, Yards and Passages paved or repaved	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	0

Sanitary Defects.

Drainage.....Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	198
Repaired or altered	...	...	...	...	...	141
Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Public Sewers.....Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Repaired or altered	...	...	...	...	...	4
Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Eaves Gutters repaired or renewed, cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	135
Rain Water Pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	78
Disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sinks renewed or provided	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sink Waste Pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	48
Water Closets.....Provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	58
Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Waste Water Closets Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	83
Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	28

Closets converted to Water Closets (or abolished)—

Latrine	14
Pail	2
Waste Water	20
Other Closets.....Provided	2
Repaired	8
Cleansed	2
Soil Pipes repaired or renewed	3
Water supply provided or improved	9

Miscellaneous.

Dustbins repaired or renewed	450
Extra provided	6
Nuisances abated.....Animals and Birds	10
Accumulations	21
Other Conditions	6
Information in Rent Books	1

Common Lodging Houses.

At the beginning of the year there were 7 premises accommodating 332 persons registered as Common Lodging Houses. Of these 6 receive men only and 1 women only. In June the keepers of the 6 premises refused registration in 1943 received a final letter of warning regarding the continued use of these premises for this purpose and at the end of the year legal proceedings were pending against 4 of the keepers concerned.

Offensive Trades.

Offensive trades carried on in the Borough, numbering 20 in all, are as follows:—

Tripe Boilers... ..	7
Marine Stores	8
Gut Scrapers	2
Hide and Skin Dépôt	1
Chemical Works	2
	<hr/>
	20
	<hr/>

There were 44 visits paid to these premises. No notices were served in respect of defects.

Bakehouses.

During the year 7 new premises were registered and 1 discontinued, leaving 260 on the register at the end of the year. Of the 2 basement bakehouses in use at the end of 1943, 1 was discontinued during the year and the other, after approved adaptations had been carried out received a certificate of renewal expiring in 1949.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

The following inspections were made:—

(a) Factories with mechanical power ...	48
(b) Factories without mechanical power ...	17

It was found necessary to serve 25 Notices.

The following defects were found and remedied. One case was referred to H.M. Inspector and no prosecutions were instituted:—

Sanitary Conveniences:—

Insufficient ...	5
Unsuitable or defective ...	15
Other offences ...	1

Registered Workshops. During the year 567 Factories and Workshops—448 mechanical and 119 non-mechanical were on the Register.

Outworkers. One list relating to 2 outworkers was received during the year. The premises were found to be satisfactory.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

The arrangements as set out in the 1942 Report in connection with our responsibilities under this Act, were continued. There were 420 complaints received; in 50 of these cases it was found that the rat infestation was due to defective drainage.

Systematic Treatment of Sewer Rats. During the year a baiting of sewers was carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department with the assistance of this Department by the seconding of Inspector W. L. Leach for this work. The Borough Engineer (Mr. G. E. Hardy) has kindly supplied the following particulars.

The town was divided up into four areas in each of which approximately 600 manholes were baited. Two separate treatments were carried out, the only differences between the treatments being that (a) sausage rusk was the bait in the first case and bread mash in the second, (b) zinc phosphide was the poison used in the first case and barium carbonate in the second.

The manner of the treatment was as follows:—

For four days in the week each manhole was baited with unpoisoned bait. On the fifth day the amount of bait was doubled and the poison added. On the sixth day an inspection was made of all manholes and the amount of bait taken was recorded.

From a formula given by the Ministry of Food (which is understood to be conservative) the estimated number of rats killed was arrived at, the figures were:—

1st Treatment	19,620
2nd Treatment	9,307

HOUSING.

Pre-War Slum Clearance. No further progress was made with regard to the rehousing of persons affected by pre-war slum clearance schemes, 3 families still remaining to be re-housed. The demolition of properties affected by outstanding clearance orders was continued and 4 houses in clearance areas, and 6 individual unfit houses, were demolished by such action.

Other Demolitions. Information was received with regard to the demolition of 12 houses by voluntary action.

Individual Unfit Houses. It was found necessary to make Demolition Orders in respect of 11 houses involving the displacement of 8 families (37 persons). The following is a summary of the individual houses dealt with during the years 1943 and 1944:—

Year	Houses Represented	No. of Families	No. of Persons	Houses Vacated	Persons Rehoused		Total No. of Persons awaiting Rehousing at Dec. 31st.	Houses Demolished	Total No. of Houses awaiting Demolition at Dec. 31st.
					By Corporation	By Own Arrangements			
1943	12	9	44	5	9	—	35	—	12
1944	11	8	37	12	47	5	20	14	9

Eradication of Bed Bugs. The following figures show the number of houses inspected and the number disinfested:—

	Corporation.	Others.
Houses inspected	329	90
Disinfested by H.C.N.	23	7
Disinfested by liquid insecticide	7	120

During the year the furniture of 80 families was disinfested prior to removal to Corporation houses.

DISINFECTION.

The arrangements for disinfection were the same as in previous years. During the year a total of 115,451 articles were disinfected and 1,236 destroyed. The total number of houses disinfected was 1,329 and 6,645 rooms.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The General Superintendent of Baths (Mr. T. Beattie) has kindly supplied the following particulars:—

All the Branch Baths are fitted with Chlorine Gas Filtration Plants, and at the Central Baths the old Filtration Plant is awaiting replacement.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk Samples. During the year 270 samples of milk were reported upon for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Of these 107 were from farms within the Borough, 3 (2·80%) of which contained Tubercle Bacilli. The remaining 163 were from milk produced outside the Borough, of these 13 (7·97%) contained Tubercle Bacilli.

There were nine animals slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, following investigation in respect of the above positive samples.

There were 77 samples of raw and heat treated milk examined, of these only 18 had a Bacterial Count of under 200,000 per c.c and absence of B. Coli. Some of the remaining samples showed gross contamination. All this milk was produced outside the Borough and the authorities concerned were notified.

Milk Purveyors. The following figures have been compiled from the register:—

Milk Shops on Register, January 1st, 1944 ...	509
Discontinued during the year	—
Registered during the year	—
Milk Shops on Register at December 31st, 1944	509

At the end of the year there were 25 Oldham farmers on the Register, and 123 farmers and dairymen residing outside the Borough.

Dairies and Cowsheds. There were 25 farms in the Borough, comprising 61 cowsheds, housing approximately 397 cows.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1941. The following licences were issued:—

- 1 Supplementary licence to sell milk as “Tuberculin Tested.”
- 3 Licences to produce and sell milk as “Accredited”.
- 6 Supplementary licences to sell milk as “Accredited”.
- 7 Supplementary licences to sell milk as “Pasteurised”.

During the year 40 samples of designated milk were submitted for examination—14 Pasteurised, 3 Accredited and 10 Tuberculin Tested for Bacterial Count and B. Coli; and 13 Accredited for Methylene Blue Reduction and Coliform Tests; of these 4 Pasteurised, 3 Accredited and 6 Tuberculin Tested failed to conform with the standard of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-1941.

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year the Ministry of Food continued the use of one slaughterhouse.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)...	3056	1994	1794	22975	86
Number inspected	3056	1994	1794	22975	86
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:					
Whole Carcases con- demned	1	8	5	12	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	271	610	7	743	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	8.900	30.992	0.668	3.286	6.976
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole Carcases con- demned	6	62	9	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	260	946	11	—	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.704	50.551	1.114	0.004	6.976

The following figures show the percentage of cows affected with Tuberculosis for the years 1941—1944.

				Cow Carcases Examined		Percentage affected with Tuberculosis
1941	...	...	...	1735	...	41.61
1942	...	...	...	1517	...	53.13
1943	...	...	...	1410	...	60.14
1944	...	...	...	1994	...	50.55

The total weight of meat and offal destroyed was—for tuberculosis, 72,249 lbs; for diseases other than tuberculosis, 20,051 lbs.

Summary of Diseased and Unsound Food destroyed during 1944.

Cattle	(77 whole carcasses)	...	...	39,259 lbs.
Sheep	(12 ,, ,, )	...	...	734 lbs.
Pigs	(2 ,, ,, )	...	...	292 lbs.
Calves	(14 ,, ,, )	...	...	533 lbs.
Parts of Carcases and Offal				
(2,858 Cattle, Sheep, Pigs and Calves)				51,482 lbs.
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	26,316 lbs.
Meat, Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	3,170 lbs.
Wheat and Flour	...	...	...	3,187 lbs.
Butter, Lard and Cheese	...	...	...	360 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	608 lbs.
Cocoa and Chocolate	...	...	...	115 lbs.
Preserved Goods	...	...	...	5,209 lbs.
Total				131,265 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. The Department granted 1 licence and 4 renewal licences during the year.

Horseflesh. One shop remains open in the Borough for the sale of horseflesh. The existing arrangements for slaughtering and inspection continued.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The total number of samples analysed during 1944 was 339, compared with 291 for 1943.

Number of Samples Purchased for Analysis.

Articles	Number of Samples of each article examined			Number of Samples of each Article regarded as adulterated, below standard, or otherwise not complying with prescribed requirements		
	Formally taken	In-formally taken	Total	Formally taken	In-formally taken	Total
Milk	281	—	281	9	—	9
Whisky	16	—	16	4	—	4
Rum	5	—	5	—	—	—
Gin	5	—	5	—	—	—
Biscuits	—	4	4	—	—	—
Tincture of Iodine	—	4	4	—	—	—
Zinc Ointment	—	4	4	—	—	—
Aspirin Tablets ...	—	4	4	—	—	—
White Pepper	—	2	2	—	—	—
Arrowroot	—	2	2	—	—	—
Vinegar	—	1	1	—	—	—
Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Curry Powder ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Gelatine Powder ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cloves	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ground Ginger ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ground Rice	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lime	—	1	1	—	—	—
Saccharin Tablets...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Glycerine & Borax.	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	307	32	339	13	—	13

Results of Action taken with regard to Samples Not Genuine.

Sample No.	Article	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
69	Milk	14.1% added water	Fined £3 and Analyst fees.
99	Milk	15.3% added water	Fined £3 and Analyst fees.
102	Milk	1.7% fat deficiency	Letter of warning.
108	Milk	15.0% fat deficiency	Fined £3 and Analyst fees.
113	Milk	4.2% added water	No action taken.
197	Milk	26.9% added water	No action taken—See follow up Sample No. 201.
201	Milk	31.0% added water	Fined £10 and Analyst Fees.
256	Milk	26.6% fat deficiency	Fined £2 and Analyst fees.
294	Milk	13.3% fat deficiency	Fined £2 and Analyst fees.
12	Whisky	13.6% added water	Fined £5 and Analyst fees.
14	Whisky	1.6% added water	Letter of warning.
15	Whisky	23.4% added water	Fined £5 and Analyst fees.
60	Whisky	20.5% added water	Fined £5 and Analyst fees.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the Attack Rate and Death Rate.

Disease	Attack Rate per 1,000 of the Population		Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population		Death Rate per 1,000 Cases
	England & Wales	Oldham	England & Wales	Oldham	
Small Pox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria...	0.58	0.63	0.02	0.02	42.25
Erysipelas ...	0.29	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ...	2.40	4.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Enteric Fever ...	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	10.34*	4.30*	—	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia..	0.97	1.06	—	0.19	176.47
Measles ...	4.16	11.13	0.01	0.008	0.80
Whooping Cough ...	2.49	1.63	0.03	0.02	16.21
Influenza ...	—	—	0.12	0.05	—

*Rates per 1,000 total births (i.e., live and still).

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year there were 71 cases notified as compared with 188 in 1943. There were 3 deaths registered from this disease, compared with 5 in the previous year, none of these cases had been immunised. Of the 71 cases notified, 4 were pre-school children, 48 were in attendance at school and 19 over school age. These cases were classified clinically as follows:—

Faucial Diphtheria	{	Extremely Severe	...	3
		Severe	... ..	11
		Moderate	... ..	25
		Mild	... ..	29
Nasal Diphtheria	...	...	...	2
Laryngeal Diphtheria	...	...	...	1

Of the total cases 27 had been immunised.

Supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin. This is supplied free to General Practitioners and can be obtained at the Public Health Office during the day or at the Central Police Station at other times.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The following figures indicate the number of children immunised during the year, and the percentage of immunised children in the Borough at the end of the year.

	Age 0—4 (inclusive)	Age 5—15 (inclusive)
Number of children completing the full course of immunisation	907	592
Total immunised at 31st December ...	3,888	11,698
Percentages of immunised children at 31st December	51.95%	87.24%

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases notified was 455, compared with 434, in 1943. Of these, 344 were removed to hospital. No deaths were recorded from this disease.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were 27 cases notified compared with 39 in 1943. Of these 3 were removed to Hospital. No deaths occurred from this disease. Of the 27 cases notified, 17 occurred in persons 45 years of age and over.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases were notified during the year.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

During the year, 3 notifications were received. One of these cases died and 2 other deaths were registered as due to this disease.

POLIOMYELITIS.

No cases were notified during the year.

EPIDEMIC ENCEPHALITIS

(Encephalitis Lethargica).

No cases were notified and no deaths were registered as due to this disease.

PNEUMONIA (ACUTE PRIMARY AND INFLUENZAL).

There were 119 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia and 11 cases of Influenzal Pneumonia notified. The deaths from all forms of Pneumonia numbered 74.

INFLUENZA.

During the year 6 deaths were attributed to this disease compared with 42 in 1943.

MEASLES.

In March there was a marked increase in the notification of Measles which was the beginning of an epidemic which did not subside until July. During the year 1,249 cases occurred, compared with 523 in 1943. Of these, 1,079 occurred during the period of the epidemic. There were 20 cases removed to hospital and one death was registered as due to this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH,

The number of cases notified was 185, compared with 509 in 1943. Of these, 7 were removed to hospital and 3 deaths were registered as due to this disease.

WHOOPING COUGH PROTECTION.

The arrangements as outlined in the Reports of 1942 and 1943 were continued throughout the year and 553 children received a full course of protective inoculations.

DYSENTERY,

There were 7 cases of Sonn  Dysentery notified during the year. These occurred in a local institution.

SMALLPOX.

One patient with symptoms of Smallpox was seen in consultation at the request of a General Practitioner but a diagnosis of smallpox was not confirmed.

In February, information was received from the Port Medical Officer, Bristol, of a smallpox contact who had proceeded to Oldham and required surveillance. The necessary action was taken.

OTHER DISEASES,

Glandular Fever. Two cases of Glandular Fever were brought to the notice of the Department. These were confirmed by pathological investigations and it is probable that the infection was contracted outside the Borough.

Table showing the Number of Cases of Certain Diseases notified, and the Deaths registered from these Diseases
During the Several Months of the Year.

MONTHS	Measles		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever		Puerperal Pyrexia		Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis		Acute Poliomyelitis		Whooping Cough		Erysipelas		Acute Primary Pneumonia		Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
January ...	22	—	38	—	16	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	12	—	4	1
February ...	27	—	26	1	11	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	7	—	6	—
March ...	87	—	45	—	13	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	2	—	9	—	1	—
April ...	189	—	37	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	1	—	5	—	—	—
May ...	355	—	29	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	18	—	3	—	11	1	—	—
June ...	376	1	32	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	2	—	12	3	—	—
July ...	72	—	34	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	30	1	3	—	6	—	—	—
August ...	20	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	14	—	1	2	6	2	—	—
September ...	12	—	29	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	2	—	9	2	—	—
October ...	24	—	44	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	2	—	11	—	—	—
November ...	20	—	62	1	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	4	—	14	3	—	—
December ...	45	—	51	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	27	1	2	—	17	2	—	—
TOTALS	1249	1	455	3	71	3	—	—	9	—	3	3	—	—	185	3	27	—	119	21	11	1

Smallpox—None. Epidemic Encephalitis (Encephalitis Lethargica)—None

WESTHULME HOSPITAL.

The Medical Rest Centre, 61, Queens Road continued to provide accommodation for convalescent scarlet fever patients when required.

In April, Mr. H. P. Lawson, F.R.C.S. (Ed.), D.L.O., L.D.S., was appointed Aural Surgeon following upon the death of Mr. W. R. Cammock, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Ed.).

During the year 984 patients were treated compared with 967 in 1943. On the 1st January, 1944, 80 patients were under treatment and 904 were admitted during 1944. The admissions were made up as follows:—

Authority	Diph.	S. Fever.	Measles.	Erys.	W. Cough.	Other.	Total.
Oldham	86	355	34	5	13	66	559
Chadderton	6	100	3	2	—	11	122
Royton	1	62	—	—	—	7	70
Crompton & Shaw	4	6	—	1	—	7	18
Limehurst	5	6	—	—	—	1	12
Failsworth	6	24	—	2	—	12	44
Saddleworth ...	10	15	1	—	—	5	31
Lees	5	6	—	—	—	—	11
Ashton-u-Lyne...	1	1	1	1	—	2	6
Dukinfield	5	—	—	—	—	1	6
Middleton	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Others	5	10	—	—	—	9	24
Totals	134	585	39	11	13	122	904

The 122 "Other Diseases" admissions were made up as follows:—

Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	2	Enteritis	11
Bronchitis	6	Mumps	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	11	Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	2
Chicken Pox	4	Rubella	19
Dysentery	9	Scabies	14
Enteric Fever	6	Tonsillitis	35
Tuberculosis	1		

CANCER.

The facilities for diagnosis and treatment as outlined in the reports for 1938 and 1943 were continued during the year.

The following information has been submitted by the Superintendent and Secretary of the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute.

Referring Hospital	No. of Cases referred	No. Treated by Radiation and Surgical			No. not treated: unsuitable, advanced disease, etc.	Follow-up visits by new cases during 1944.
		I.P.	O.P.	Total		
Oldham Royal Infirmary	199	46	95	141	58	411
Boundary Park General Hospital	42	9	3	12	30	37
Total	241	55	98	153	88	448

Total number of examinations made at the Oldham Clinic (including 448 follow-up attendances) by 1944 cases:—

Oldham Royal Infirmary	1,925
Boundary Park General Hospital	96

Number of visits paid by Medical Officer from the Holt Radium Institute to:—

Oldham Royal Infirmary	52
Boundary Park General Hospital	11

The number of deaths attributed to cancer shows a reduction of 18 compared with 1943.

The figures for the last 5 years are as follows:—

1940	217
1941	216
1942	236
1943	222
1944	204

The following is an analysis of the age and sex distribution of all persons who were certified as dying from cancer during the year:—

Ages	Males	Females	Total
0—15	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—
25—35	—	3	3
35—45	9	9	18
45—55	16	21	37
55—65	36	25	61
65—75	35	26	61
75—	17	7	24

Localisation of the Disease.

Buccal Cavity	{	Tongue	5
		Mouth	2
		Jaw	1
Digestive Tract	{	Oesophagus	9
		Stomach	41
		Rectum	12
		Liver and Biliary	
		Passages	5
		Pancreas	5
		Colon	31
Respiratory Organs	{	Intestine	2
		Other Organs	6
		Larynx	4
		Lung	17
Male Genito-Urinary	{	Other	3
		Bladder	6
		Prostate	2
		Scrotum	2
Female Genital Organs	{	Penis	1
		Uterus	10
		Ovary	8
Breast		Vulva	1
Skin			18
Other and Unspecified			4
			9

BOROUGH CORONER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR.

The following report has been supplied by Mr. J. L. Watson, the Borough Coroner:—

The deaths reported to the Coroner during the year 1944 were 275 (males 163, females 112).

Of this total 51 were lunatics and mental defectives in Institutions.

In 68 of the cases reported the deaths were investigated by the Coroner but no inquests held.

There were 207 inquests held (136 on males and 71 on females). All but three of the Inquests were held without a Jury.

There were 102 post mortem examinations in 9 of which no inquest was held. The expenses of the inquests amounted to £464 13s. 0d.

The verdicts returned were:—

Suicides 12 (males 10, females 2); Accident or Misadventure, 91 (males 54, females 37); Natural Causes 94 (males 64, females 30); Open verdicts 7 (all males).

The ages of the 12 suicides were as follows:—

Between 30 and 40 years of age	1
Between 50 and 60 years of age	3
60 years of age and over	8

The types of suicide included:—

Gassing	7
Drowning	1
Shooting	1
Cut Throat	1
Taking Poison	1
Swallowing Pieces of Metal	1

There were no inquests on infants suffocated whilst in bed with their parents.

There were no inquests on newly born children.

In 1943 there were 282 deaths reported, 195 inquests were held and the expenses were £488 12s. 8d.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Dispensary. Attendances at the Dispensary, compared with the two previous years, are as follows:—

	1942	1943	1944
Insured persons	2003	2177	2167
Non-insured persons	239	243	221
Children	640	791	748
	<hr/> 2882	<hr/> 3211	<hr/> 3136

The tuberculosis nurse paid 1,359 visits to the homes of tuberculous patients.

X-Ray Work. During the year 787 films were taken compared with 694 in 1943. Of 61 films loaned 48 were retained by the Department.

Pathological Examinations. During the year 1,011 specimens of sputum were examined. Of these 583 were positive and 428 negative.

Notifications. During the year 143 new cases were placed on the Register of Notifications (103 pulmonary, 40 non-pulmonary) compared with 165 (115 pulmonary, 50 non-pulmonary) for the previous year. The following table gives particulars of the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified in recent years together with the case rate per thousand of the population. Cases notified in other areas which later moved into the Borough have been excluded.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		All Forms	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
1936	118	·90	43	·33	161	1·23
1937	114	·89	61	·48	175	1·37
1938	132	1·05	86	·68	218	1·73
1939	113	·91	62	·50	175	1·41
1940	92	·78	49	·41	141	1·19
1941	102	·87	30	·26	132	1·13
1942	85	·74	53	·47	138	1·21
1943	115	1·02	50	·45	165	1·47
1944	103	·92	40	·35	143	1·27

Deaths. The number of deaths registered 79 (70 pulmonary and 9 non-pulmonary) gives a rate per thousand of the population of ·70 (·62 pulmonary, ·08 non-pulmonary) compared with 71 deaths (62 pulmonary and 9 non-pulmonary) and a rate of ·63 (·55 pulmonary, ·08 non-pulmonary) for 1943.

The Dispensary Register. The total number of accepted cases on the Register on the 31st December 1944 was 643. Of these 213 were cases in which tubercle bacilli had been found in the sputum at some period of the illness.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total		
	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total	Male	Fem.	Total
No. on Register on 31/12/43	217	165	382	124	126	250	341	291	632
Cases previously removed, returning during 1944	9	4	13	...	...	...	9	4	13
New cases placed on Register during 1944 (Trans. from Non. Pulm.)	78	32	110	20	19	39	98	51	149
Cases removed during 1944 (Trans. to pulmonary) ...	70	34	104	21	26	47	91	60	151
No. on Register on 31/12/44	234	167	401	123	119	242	357	286	643

During the year 151 patients were removed for the following reasons:

1. Recovery	37	or 24.5% of total removals
2. Removal out	16	} or 20.5% of total removals.
3. Not desiring further treatment	12	
4. Lost sight of	1	
5. Diagnosis not confirmed	2	
6. Death	83	or 55% of total removals.

Of the 37 recovered cases 9 were pulmonary—5 or 56% being Tb. Minus, 1 or 11% Tb. Plus 1, and 3 or 33% Tb. plus 2 cases.

Of the 83 deaths 77 were pulmonary cases, classified as follows:—

Tb. Minus, 20 or 26%; Tb. Plus 1, 2 or 3%; Tb. Plus 2, 44 or 57%; Tb. Plus, 3, 11 or 14%.

Cases not formally notified. These numbered 16, 12 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary. Of these, 12 were live transfers from other areas, the remaining 4 being notified posthumously.

The number of non notified deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis was 2, equal to 2.9% of the deaths from this form of the disease.

Non-pulmonary deaths not notified during life totalled 2, being 22.2% of the total of such deaths. Both were cases of meningitis.

The percentage of non-notified deaths from all forms of tuberculosis was 5.0.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases During 1944, 110 new cases were placed on the Dispensary Register and were classified as follows:

T.B. Minus (Sputum negative or absent)	49
T.B. Plus 1 (Early cases, sputum positive)	5
T.B. Plus 11 (Intermediate cases, sputum positive)	49
T.B. Plus 111 (Advanced cases, sputum positive)	7

In addition 4 other cases came to notice but were not placed on the Register.

Deaths. During the year 70 patients, compared with 62 in the previous year, died from pulmonary tuberculosis. This represents a death rate of .62 per thousand of the population.

In addition 8 pulmonary cases died from causes other than tuberculosis.

Of these 70 deaths 15, or 21.4%, had been notified more than 5 years. A further 10, or 14.3%, had been notified 3 to 5 years and a similar number died 1 to 3 years after notification. The remaining 35 deaths (50% of the total) occurred within 1 year of coming to notice and included 2 which escaped statutory notification, both being notified posthumously.

The following table shows the length of time between notification and death of the remaining 33:—

Under 1 week	6
1 to 4 weeks	4
1 to 2 months	7
2 to 3 months	3
3 to 6 months	9
6 to 9 months	1
9 to 12 months	3

Thus of the 70 patients dying during the year 55, or 78.6% died within 5 years of coming to notice.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases. The number of new cases placed on the Dispensary Register during the year was 39. Two other cases came to notice. These compare with 46 and 5 for 1943.

The localisation of the disease, compared with 1943, and 1942, was as follows:—

	1942	1943	1944
Bones and Joints	7	9	11
Abdomen	7	10	9
Meninges	6	5	3
Skin	—	2	1
Generalised	2	—	—
Other Organs	3	6	4
Peripheral Glands	29	19	13
	—	—	—
Totals	54	51	41
	—	—	—

Deaths. During the year there were 9 deaths; a similar number occurred in 1943. This represents a death rate of .08 per thousand of the population. All occurred in our own hospitals and the localisation of the disease was as follows.

Meninges 4. Abdomen 3. Ribs 1. Spine 1.

The following is a summary of the new cases and deaths during the year :—

Age Periods					New Cases				Deaths			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.	Male	Fem.
0 to 1 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 to 5 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	1	...
5 to 10 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	...	...	...	1
10 to 15 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	1	...
15 to 20 ... ..	...	...	...	...	10	3	2	2	1	3	...	1
20 to 25 ... ..	...	...	...	...	14	15	4	3	4	4	1	...
25 to 35 ... ..	...	...	...	...	11	6	...	1	10	4	1	2
35 to 45 ... ..	...	...	...	...	15	3	3	2	5	4	...	...
45 to 55 ... ..	...	...	...	...	13	3	1	...	15	1	...	...
55 to 65 ... ..	...	...	...	...	10	2	...	1	10	2	...	...
65 and upwards ... ..	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	6	1	1	...
TOTALS ... ..	...	...	...	...	78	32	21	20	51	19	5	4
					1944 ...	110	41		70		9	
					1943 ...	113	51		62		9	
					1942 ...	103	54		52		9	
					1941 ...	108	31		62		9	

The following list gives a summary of the principal occupations of new cases and deaths:—

				New Cases.		Deaths.	
				Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Cotton Operatives	...	...	...	18	6	10	—
Labourers	...	...	...	17	1	12	1
Household duties	...	...	...	9	—	11	1
Iron Workers	...	...	...	7	2	5	—
School Children	...	...	...	—	12	—	2
Under school age	...	...	...	—	6	—	1
Transport Workers	...	...	...	3	—	2	—
Clerks	...	...	...	8	1	3	—
Textile Machinery Workers,							
Fitters, Machinists	...	...	...	17	2	8	2
Shop Assistants	...	...	...	2	1	1	—
Printers	...	...	...	2	1	—	—
Nurses	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
No Occupation	...	...	...	4	2	2	2
Other Occupations	...	...	...	22	6	16	—
				—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	110	41	70	9
				—	—	—	—

STRINESDALE SANATORIUM.

In April, Mr. H. P. Lawson, F.R.C.S.(Ed.), D.L.O., L.D.S., was appointed Aural Surgeon following upon the death of Mr. W. R. Cammock, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.(Ed.)

In June, Miss I. C. Ball, Matron, was seconded to the Westwood Park Institution to undertake duties of Matron pending the appointment of a Master and Matron. During her absence Miss E. Spillane undertook the duties of Matron at the Sanatorium.

During the year 131 patients were admitted.

Artificial Pneumothorax. At the commencement of the year 8 patients were undergoing this form of treatment as inpatients whilst 11 were attending as outpatients. A further 12 patients were induced during 1944 whilst treatment had to be discontinued in 5 cases. The number of refills given totalled 567.

In a number of outpatient cases refills are given at Westhulme Hospital; 11 such cases attended during the year, 134 refills being given.

Sanocrysin. Sanocrysin has been given to 22 patients during the year including 3 patients who commenced a course in the previous year. In 4 cases treatment had to be discontinued before a complete course had been given. A total of 267 injections were given during the year.

Other Treatment. Thirty-two pleural aspirations, 5 washouts and 2 gas replacements were performed during the year and the following examinations carried out:—

Blood Sedimentation 563; Urine 2352; Sputa 533; X-ray 142.

Dental Treatment. The arrangements for treatment remain unaltered and the following is a summary of the work carried out.

Cases Treated	Attendances for treatment	Dental Extractions	Fillings	Other Operations	Dentures Provided
63	159	103	34	74	15

The following figures give some further indication of the work of the Sanatorium.

Admissions.

	1942	1943	1944
A. Definite Cases of Tuberculosis	106	124	117
B. Observation Cases	17	14	14

Deaths.

A. Definite Cases of Tuberculosis	26	34	45
B. Observation Cases, Non-T.B.	1	—	2

Discharges.

Transfers to Boundary Park General Hospital	2	2	2
Transfers to Oldham Royal Infirmary	—	—	1
Transfers to Wrightington Hospital	—	—	1
Transfers to Papworth Village Settlement	—	—	1
Transfers to Strinesdale Open Air School	2	—	1
Discharged home	87	101	82

Condition of Patients on Discharge.

Observation Cases, Non-T.B.	9	8	6
Disease Quiescent	7	10	7
Improved	62	68	55
No material improvement	13	20	14

OTHER HOSPITALS.

The policy of sending suitable cases to sanatoria owned by other Authorities has been continued and proved of considerable help in reducing the pressure on our own accommodation at Strinesdale Sanatorium. During the year 18 pulmonary cases were admitted to the following sanatoria:—

The Liverpool Sanatorium, Frodsham.	11
The Royal National Sanatorium, Bournemouth.	1
Preston Hall Sanatorium, Maidstone.	1
Papworth Village Settlement, Cambridge	1
Aitkin Sanatorium, Bury.	1
Barrowmore Hall, Chester.	1
The Mundesley Sanatorium, Cheshire.	1
Wrightington Hospital, Wigan.	1

Twelve cases of bones and joints disease were admitted to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.

BOUNDARY PARK GENERAL HOSPITAL.

The following figures relate to the work of the Hospital with regard to Tuberculosis patients:—

Admissions.			1942	1943	1944
A. Definite Cases of Tuberculosis:					
	Pulmonary	... ..	12	37	25
	Non-Pulmonary	... ..	16	15	8
B. Observation Cases:					
	Pulmonary	... ..	24	20	12
	Non-Pulmonary	... ..	6	6	4
Deaths.					
A. Definite Cases of Tuberculosis			11	11	11
B. Observation Cases, Non-T.B.			1	1	1
Discharges.					
Transfers to other					
Institutions.					
	Pulmonary	... ..	8	24	19
	Non-Pulmonary	... ..	5	6	2
Discharged home			32	42	19

Maintenance Allowances and Grants.

The arrangements for the granting of financial and other assistance under Memo. 266/T and the Authorities Local Scheme remain as described in the report for 1943.

In October a report comprising a comparison between the Scale of Allowances payable to tuberculous persons and their dependants under the Local Scheme and the recently revised relief scales and children's allowances administered by the Public Assistance Committee was considered by the Health Committee and it was decided that the scale of dependants allowances for persons up to the age of 15 years should be increased by 2s. 6d. and that expectant mothers should be regarded as two persons, and additional allowance of 7s. 6d. being paid from the third month of pregnancy.

Consideration of the report revealed that the scale of dependants allowances payable under Memo. 266/T compared most unfavourably with those applied by the Public Assistance Committee and Assistance Board and in consequence of this the Minister of Health was strongly recommended to revise the scale. The Minister, after considering the position, intimated that he did not regard it as necessary to re-examine the basic scales as laid down in Memo. 266/T.

The following summaries give particulars of the number of applicants and applications dealt with and amounts expended during the year.

1. Memorandum 266/T.

Period 30.12.43 to 27.12.44 (inclusive).

Amounts expended.

Total number of applicants—1944.	48	
Number carried forward from 1943.	33	
Total number of applications—1944.	67	£2,510 2. 1
Maintenance Allowances.		
Number of applicants.—1944.	48	
Number carried forward from 1943.	32	
Number of applications.—1944	59	£2,485 6. 7.

Discretionary Allowances.

Number of applicants—1944. ...	1	
Number carried forward from 1943. —		
in Maintenance Allowances ...	1	
Number of applications—1944. ...	1	3 5. 2.

Special Payments

Number of applicants—1944. ...	6	
Number carried forward from 1943. 1		
in Maintenance Allowances. ...	6	
in Discretionary Allowances. ...	—	
Others	—	
Number of applications—1944. ...	7	£21 10. 4.

2. Local Scheme.

Period 31.12.43 to 28.12.44 (inclusive).

Total number of applicants—1944. 32	
Number carried forward from 1943. 15	
Total number of applications	59 £1,977 16. 4.

Maintenance Allowances.

Number of applicants—1944. ...	30	
Number carried forward from 1943. 14		
Number of applications—1944 ...	43	£1,940 16 1.

Discretionary Allowances.

Number of applicants—1944 ...	1	
Number carried forward from 1943. —		
in Maintenance Allowances. ...	1	
Number of applications—1944 ...	1	7. 6.

Special Payments.

Number of applicants—1944 ...	9	
Number carried forward from 1943. 1		
in Maintenance Allowances. ...	7	
in Discretionary Allowances. ...	—	
Others.	2	
Number of applications—1944. ...	12	£36 12. 9.

In addition to the above, special payments covering the provision of clothing etc. amounting to £17 1s. 2d. were made to 4 applicants (4 applications) in receipt of allowances under the Government Scheme.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

Part I.—Summary of Notifications during the period from 1st January, 1944, to the 31st December, 1944, in the area of the County Borough of Oldham.

Age Periods.	Formal Notifications											
	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis											
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 & upwards	Total Notifications. (all ages)
Pulmonary Males	9	12	12	13	14	9	6	75
Females	1	1	3	10	5	3	2	1	...	26
Non-Pulmonary Males	1	3	4	3	...	3	1	...	1	21
Females	1	1	3	3	1	3	...	...	...	17
TOTALS	6	7	5	19	28	22	17	10	7	139
												156

Part II.—Supplemental Return.

New Cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by Formal Notification.

Age Periods.	Source of Information.												65 and up.	Total
	0—1	1—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—55	55—65	65—75			
Pulmonary, Males	1	2	1	...	1	2	...	...	7	
Females	3	...	...	1	1	...	...	5	
Non-Pulmonary Males	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Females	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
TOTALS	2	...	1	7	1	...	2	3	...	...	16	

Source of Information.	No. of Cases.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulm'y
Death Returns—from local Registrars	...	...
transferable deaths from Registrar General	...	...
Posthumous Notifications	2	2
“Transfers” from other areas (other than transferable deaths)	10	2
Other Sources, if any (specify)	...	...

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS Return relating to the work of the Dispensary during the year ending 31 December, 1944.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Total				Grand Total
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A.—(1) Number of definite cases on the Dispensary Register at the beginning of the year ...	208	156	9	9	52	75	72	51	260	231	81	60	632
(2) Transfers from other Authorities during the year ...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	5	—	1	11
(3) Lost sight of cases returned during the year ...	9	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	4	—	—	13
B.—Number of new cases diagnosed as tuberculous during the year :—													.
(1) Class T.B. minus ...	30	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	17	—	—	47
(2) Class T.B. plus ...	43	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	10	—	—	53
(3) Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	10	9	10	9	10	9	10	9	38
C.—Number of cases included in A. & B. written off the Dispensary Register during the year as :—													
(1) Recovered ...	4	5	—	—	6	9	9	4	10	14	9	4	37
(2) Dead (all causes) ...	56	21	—	—	1	3	2	—	57	24	2	—	83
(3) Removed to other areas ...	7	4	—	—	1	2	1	1	8	6	1	1	16
(4) For other reasons ...	3	4	—	—	1	7	—	—	4	11	—	—	15
D.—Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the end of the year ...	225	158	9	9	53	63	70	56	278	221	79	65	643

VACCINATION.

During the year 1944 the Vaccination Officer issued 1,582 Q Notices requesting parents' compliance with the Acts. There were no defaulters and it was therefore unnecessary to issue any K. Forms.

The Vaccination Officer paid 181 home visits and notified the Public Vaccinators on H. Forms of 437 cases requiring vaccination.

The following table gives details of the work of the Public Vaccinators during the year:—

District	No. of successful Primary Vaccinations of Persons			No. of successful re-vaccinations
	Under 1 year of age	One year and upwards	Total	
1	—	—	—	—
2	66	1	67	—
3	28	1	29	—
4	45	3	48	23
5	23	7	30	5
6	97	0	97	—
Totals ...	259	12	271	28

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The scheme for the treatment of patients suffering from Venereal Diseases remains as in previous years. Following correspondence with Colonel L. W. Harrison of the Ministry of Health it was agreed that an additional session for women should be held on Wednesdays at 11-30 a.m., and arrangements were made for this session to commence in January, 1945.

Regulation 33B.

Following the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 2896 clarifying the position of Local Authorities with regard to the unofficial tracing of contacts, the Council instructed the Medical Officer of Health to take any necessary action, apart from the compulsory procedure under Regulation 33B, for tracing contacts after the receipt of only one notification and persuading them to attend for examination. During the year, Form 1 was received in respect of 27 females resident in the Borough. Visits were undertaken by the Superintendent Health Visitor, and apart from a few difficult cases, were well received. Of the persons named 16 were traced, 9 of whom attended for examination. A second Form 1 was received in two cases, but the contacts attended for examination after persuasion, and legal proceedings were not necessary.

Supplies of Arsenobenzene Compounds.

Seven doctors on the list availed themselves of this free supply, and 162 doses of various strengths of these compounds were supplied.

Diagnosis and Treatment.

The returns given overleaf relate to all persons who were treated at the Treatment Centre, together with details of the pathological work involved during 1944. In addition to the numbers given on this return, the following figures indicate the number of Oldham persons making their first attendance at clinics in other areas.

Gonorrhoea	2
Non V.D. and undiagonised conditions ...	4

RETURN relating to all persons who were treated at the

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhœa		Non- venereal or undiag'd conditions		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Tot.
1. Number of cases on 1st January under treatment or observation	128	115	...	...	54	19	7	14	189	148	337
2. Number of cases removed from the register during any previous year which returned during the year under report for treatment or observation of the same infection	5	6	...	...	1	1	...	...	6	7	13
3. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report (exclusive of cases under Item 4) suffering from :—											
Syphilis, primary	24	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	3	27
" secondary	3	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	13	16
" latent in 1st year of infection*	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	6
" all later stages	22	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	42	64
" congenital	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	9
Soft Chancre ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhœa, 1st year of infection ...	...	...	...	...	85	31	...	...	85	31	116
" later ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	104	109	104	109	213
Non-venereal conditions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Conditions remaining undiagnosed at 31st December ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	25	6	25	31
4. Number of cases dealt with for the first time during the year under report known to have received treatment for the same infection, or to have been under observation, at other Centres or Service Hospitals, or by General Practitioners approved under Ministry of Health Circular 2226	(4)	...	...	...	(2)	...	...	...	(6)	...	(6)
	1	6	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	8	10
TOTALS OF ITEMS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 ...	190	197	...	...	143	52	117	149	450	398	848
5. Number of cases discharged after completion of treatment and final tests of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal...	2	2	...	...	53	14	111	123	166	139	305
6. Number of cases which ceased to attend before completion of treatment and were, on first attendance, suffering from :—											
Syphilis, primary	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	6
" secondary ... ..	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
" latent in 1st year of infection*	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	6
" all later stages	6	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	12	18
" congenital	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Soft Chancre ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhœa, 1st year of infection ...	...	...	...	...	22	10	...	...	22	10	32
" later ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Number of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment but before final tests of cure	5	9	...	...	4	9	...	...	9	18	27
8. Number of cases transferred to other Centres or to institutions, or to care of private practitioners	11	6	...	...	16	1	...	1	27	8	35
9. Number of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December...	155	152	...	...	48	18	6	25	209	195	404
TOTALS OF ITEMS 5, 6, 7, 8 AND 9 ...	190	197	...	...	143	52	117	149	450	398	848

* "Syphilis, latent in 1st year of infection" applies to cases presenting no clinical sign of syphilis but discovered (by blood test, etc.) to have contracted this disease within the preceding 12 months.

The figures in brackets refer to Service Cases.

Treatment Centre during the year ended 31st December, 1944.

	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhœa		Non-venereal or undiag'd conditions		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Tot.
10. Number of attendances :—											
(a) for individual attention of the medical officer(s)	3491	3183	...	...	920	315	402	499	4813	3997	8810
(b) for intermediate treatment, e.g., irrigation, dressing	57	70	...	...	1550	...	7	...	1614	70	1684
TOTAL ATTENDANCES	3548	3253	...	...	2470	315	409	499	6427	4067	10494
11. In-patients :—											
(a) Total number of persons admitted for treatment during the year	4	6	...	...	3	...	2	2	9	8	17
(b) Aggregate number of "in-patient days" of treatment given ...	91	197	...	...	68	...	21	33	180	235	415
12. Number of cases of congenital syphilis in Item 3 above classified according to age periods	Under 1 yr.		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 years and over		Totals		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	4	2		7
13. Pathological Work :—	Microscopical		Cultural for Gonorrhœa	Serum		Cerebro-spinal fluid	Others for diagnosis of Venereal Disease				
	for Syphilis	for Gonorrhœa		for Syphilis	for Gonorrhœa						
(a) Number of specimens examined at , and by the medical officer of, the Treatment Centre ...	68	1516	17	—	—	9	—				
(b) Number of specimens from patients attending at the Treatment Centre sent for examination to an approved laboratory (if available)	—	—	—	718 (wrs) 206 (Kahn)	(Geft) 252	9 (wrs)	—				

Statement showing the services rendered at the Treatment Centre during the year, classified according to the areas in which the patients resided.

Name of County or County Borough (or Country in the case of persons residing elsewhere than in England and Wales) to be inserted in these headings.	Oldham	Lancashire	Yorkshire	Rochdale	Bolton	Manchester	Total
A. Number of cases from each area included under the following headings in Item 3 :—							
Syphilis	92	23	5	2	...	...	122
Soft Chancre ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhœa	81	28	4	1	1	1	116
Non-venereal and undiagnosed conditions	158	69	12	2	...	3	244
TOTAL	331	120	21	5	1	4	482
B. Total number of attendances of all patients residing in each area	7177	2633	417	203	24	40	10494

INDEX.

A

- Act—Adoption of Children
 (Regulation), 1939 ... 17, 18
 Act—Food & Drugs, 1938 ... 33, 34
 Act—Local Government, 1929 13-15
 Act—Rats and Mice Destruction,
 1919 ... 28
 Act—Slaughter of Animals,
 1933 ... 32
 Ante-Natal Clinic ... 13
 Area of the Borough ... 5
 Arsenobenzene Compounds ... 53
 Artificial Pneumothorax ... 47
 Attack Rates ... 35, 44
 Attendance at Welfare Centres ... 16

B

- Bacteriological Examinations 33, 34
 Bakehouses ... 27
 Basement Bakehouses ... 27
 Baths and Pools ... 29
 Births ... 5, 12, 16, 19
 Borough Coroner's Report ... 43
 Boundary Park General
 Hospital ... 12, 13
 Boundary Park General Hospital,
 Tuberculosis ... 49
 Boundary Park General Hospital,
 Consultative Clinic ... 13
 Bugs, Eradication of ... 29

C

- Cancer ... 41, 42
 Care of Illegitimate Children ... 18
 Causes of Death ... 6, 8
 Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ... 36
 Chemical and Bacteriological
 Examination of Food ... 33, 34
 Chief Sanitary Inspector's
 Report ... 25-34
 Clinic, Ante-Natal ... 13
 Clinics, Dental ... 20
 Clinic, Orthopaedic ... 22
 Clinics, Welfare Attendances ... 16
 Common Lodging Houses ... 27
 Corporation Service, Examination
 of Entrants ... 11, 12
 Consultative Clinic (Boundary
 Park General Hospital) ... 13

D

- Dairies and Cowsheds ... 30
 Deaths ... 5, 6, 8, 12
 Death Rate, Infectious Diseases 35
 Demolitions ... 29
 Dental Inspection and
 Treatment ... 20, 48
 Diphtheria ... 36
 Diphtheria, Anti-Toxin ... 36
 Diphtheria Immunisation ... 36
 Diseased and Unsound Food ... 32
 Disinfection ... 29
 Dispensary Attendances ... 43
 Drainage and Sewerage ... 23-24
 Dysentery ... 37

E

- Emergency Maternity Unit ... 20
 Encephalitis Lethargica ... 36
 Enteric Fever ... 36
 Eradication of Bed Bugs ... 29
 Erysipelas ... 36
 Examinations, Medical,
 Corporation Entrants ... 11, 12

F

- Factories, Workshops and
 Workplaces ... 28
 Fees, Municipal Midwives ... 19
 Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ... 33, 34
 Foods, Supervision and
 Inspection of ... 30-34
 Foster Parents ... 17

G

- General Hospital Sub-Committee ... 4
 General Purposes Sub-Committee ... 4
 Glandular Fever ... 37

H

- Health Committee ... 4
 Health Insurance ... 5
 Health Visiting ... 17
 Home Helps ... 18
 Horseflesh ... 32
 Hospital, Boundary Park
 General ... 12, 13, 49
 Hospital, Westhulme ... 40
 Houses ... 5
 Housing ... 29

I

- Illegitimate Children, care of ... 18
 Immunisation against Diphtheria 36
 Infant Life Protection ... 17
 Infantile Mortality ... 5, 6, 7, 9
 Infectious Diseases ... 35-40
 Infectious Diseases, Attack and
 Death Rates ... 35
 Infectious Diseases,
 Notifications and Deaths ... 38, 39
 Influenza ... 37
 Inspection and Supervision
 of Foods ... 30-34
 Insulin, Supply of ... 11
 Introduction ... 2, 3

L

- Laboratory Facilities ... 10
 Localisation of Cancer ... 41, 42
 Local Government Act, 1929
 Administrative Scheme ... 13-15

M

- Marriages ... 5
 Maternal Mortality ... 5, 7, 21
 Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-
 Committee ... 4
 Maternity and Child Welfare ... 15-22
 Measles ... 37
 Meat Inspection ... 31, 32
 Medical Examinations ... 11, 12
 Midwives, Supervision of ... 19

INDEX—Continued

Milk Samples ... 30, 33, 34
 Milk (Special Designations),
 Regulations, 1936-1941 ... 30
 Milk Supply ... 30, 33, 34
 Milk—Tuberculosis Order, 1938 ... 30
 Municipal Midwifery Service ... 19

N

Neo-Natal Mortality ... 6
 Nurseries, War-time ... 18

O

Offensive Trades ... 27
 Oldham Laboratory Board ... 10
 Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... 20

ORDERS:—

Milk, Tuberculosis Order, 1938... 30
 Orthopaedic Clinic ... 22
 Orthopaedic Defects and
 Treatment ... 22
 Outworkers ... 28

P

Pathological Services ... 10
 Pneumonia ... 37
 Poliomyelitis ... 36
 Poor Law Relief ... 5
 Population ... 5
 Prevalence of and Control over
 Infectious and other Diseases ... 35
 Public Cleansing ... 24, 25
 Puerperal Pyrexia ... 20

R

Rateable Value ... 5
 Rats and Mice Destruction
 Act, 1919 ... 28
 Registered Workshops ... 28

REGULATIONS:—

Milk (Special Designations),
 1936-1941 ... 30

S

Samples—Food and Drugs ... 33, 34
 Samples, Milk ... 30, 33, 34
 Sanitary Circumstances of
 the Area ... 25-29
 Sanitary Defects ... 26-27
 Sanitary Inspection ... 25-29
 Sanocrysin ... 47
 Scarlet Fever ... 36
 Sewerage and Drainage ... 23, 24
 Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 ... 32
 Slaughterhouses ... 31
 Slum Clearance ... 29
 Smallpox ... 37
 Statistics, General ... 5
 Stillbirths ... 5, 12, 19
 Supervision of Midwives ... 19
 Supervision and
 Inspection of Foods ... 30-34
 Strinesdale Sanatorium... 47, 48
 Swimming Baths and Pools ... 29

TABLES—**T**

Births and Deaths ... 7, 8
 Cancer Deaths ... 41, 42
 Causes of Death ... 8

Complaints, Disrepair and

 Sanitary Defects ... 25-27
 Food and Drug Samples ... 33, 34
 General Hospital, Statistics ... 12, 13
 Infantile Mortality ... 6, 7, 9
 Infectious Diseases,
 Attack and Death Rates ... 35
 Notifications and Deaths ... 38, 39
 Meat Inspection ... 31, 32
 Neo-Natal Mortality ... 6
 Orthopaedic, Defects and
 Treatment ... 22
 Tuberculosis, Dispensary
 Register ... 44
 Tuberculosis—Summary of
 Notifications ... 51
 Tuberculosis—Treatment
 of at Dispensary ... 52
 Vaccination ... 53
 Venereal Diseases ... 54-55
 Vital Statistics ... 5-7
 Westhulme Hospital—
 Admissions ... 40
 Transferred Births ... 5, 17
 Transferred Deaths ... 5, 6
 Tuberculosis ... 43-52
 Tuberculosis—Maintenance
 Allowances and Grants
 (Memorandum 266/T) ... 49, 50
 Tuberculosis—
 Deaths ... 5-8, 44-48
 Tuberculosis—Dispensary ... 43
 Tuberculosis—Notifications ... 44
 Tuberculosis, Boundary Park
 General Hospital ... 49
 Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary ... 46-47
 Tuberculosis—Pulmonary ... 45
 Tuberculosis—Pathological
 Examinations ... 44
 Tuberculosis—Dental Treatment ... 48
 Tuberculosis—Principal
 Occupation of New Cases
 and Deaths ... 47
 Tuberculosis—X-Ray ... 44

V

Vaccination ... 53
 Venereal Diseases ... 53-55
 Vital Statistics ... 5, 7

W

War-time Nurseries ... 18
 Water Supply ... 23
 Westhulme Hospital ... 40
 Westhulme Hospital and
 and Tuberculosis Sub-Committee ... 4
 Westwood Park Institution... 13-15
 Whooping Cough ... 37
 Whooping Cough Protection ... 37
 Workshops, Registered ... 28

X

X-Ray Work, Tuberculosis ... 44

Z

Zymotic Diseases—Death Rate ... 5

